

Remarks/Arguments

Claim Objections

Claims 3, 4, 13, 14, 23 and 24, stand objected to because of informalities in the independent claim references.

The claims have been amended in accordance with Examiner's suggestions. As such, it is respectfully asserted that the basis for the objection has been eliminated.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 21, 23 and 24, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0095673, hereinafter referred to as "Leung"), in view of Ganzer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,121,430, hereinafter referred to as "Ganzer").

It is respectfully asserted that neither Leung nor Ganzer, alone or in combination, discloses the step of:

"enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption"

as described in currently amended claim 1.

Among the problems addressed by the present invention is the loss of relevance of location information stored in a set top box or other emergency alert device after it has been set up, then powered down and relocated. To solve this problem, the subject application discloses a method of detecting a power interruption to said apparatus, enabling an output to notify a user responsive to detecting said power interruption, and enabling a user to provide updated information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption. Thus, the user may, for instance, enter new location information or new alert preferences when a set top box detects that it has been relocated.

Leung teaches a “method and apparatus for exercising access control over television programs using a parental control user interface that has different functions is provided. The method requires a password to enter into a master mode for obtaining access to all the functions of the parental control user interface. Once in the master mode, the user may enter a criterion for blocking a television program from being viewed or recorded or the user can override an already blocked television program. If a user, not in the master mode, attempts to watch or record a program that meets the blocking criterion and the program does not meet the overriding criterion, a prompt is provided to the user to enter the password. Upon entering a correct password, the program is unblocked.” (Leung Abstract)

Leung discloses giving a user two choices of power outage settings. One denies all access to the TV until the master password is input. The other allows access to everything not saved in EE ROM. A power failure notice is presented every time the TV is powered on until the master password is input. (Leung, paragraphs 166-169) Leung does not, however describe enabling a user to provide location information to the device after detecting a power interruption. Only a password prompt is provided. Thus, Leung fails to disclose the step of “enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption,” as described in currently amended claim 1. Leung would therefore fail to provide the advantages of the present invention of obtaining up to date location information after a power interruption to help ensure useful geographically relevant operation of the emergency alert function.

Ganzer teaches a geographically specific emergency alert system which “includes a code generator unit in which geographic areas to be alerted and types of severity of alerts are selected and code strings generated to represent the affected areas and alert types selected. The code strings are broadcast by modulating the audio carrier of a television signal and received on receiver units positioned in areas within the broadcast market of a television station providing the alerting service. Location codes or[are] entered into the receiver units by the users according to the areas in which the receiver units are used. When an alert is broadcast, each receiver unit decodes a location code string in the signal. If it matches that set on the receiver, an alert code string is decoded to activate a alarm devices

connected to the receiver, such as an audible alarm generator, LED, etc., in accordance with the type or severity of alert that was broadcast.” (Ganzer Abstract)

Ganzer discloses the use of a nine volt battery backup and the use of a low battery alert to inform the user when the battery needs to be replaced. Ganzer does not, however, disclose obtaining new location information from the user after a power interruption has been detected. Thus, Ganzer, like Leung, fails to disclose the step of “enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption,” as described in currently amended claim 1.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 enabling disclosure provided by Leung or Ganzer which makes the present invention as claimed in currently amended claim 1 unpatentable. It is further submitted that currently amended independent claims 11 and 21 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Since dependent claims 3-5, 13-15, and 23-26 are dependent from allowable independent claims 1, 11, and 21, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 15, 25 and 26, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung and Ganzer, and further in view of Hayes (U.S. Patent No. 4,718,107).

Hayes teaches a controller in a CATV converter which “provides three operating modes comprising: (1) a family viewing mode in which conversion of selected channels is blocked; (2) an enter access code mode for selecting the channels to be blocked from family viewing; and (3) a parental control mode in which all channels may be viewed. The family viewing mode is enabled by turn-on of the converter or by commands by the user or the CATV system operator. The enter access code mode is initiated by a user command. The

parental control mode is enabled by user entry of a valid access code or when a new access code is created while in the enter access code mode.” (Hayes Abstract)

Hayes, like Ganzer and Leung, fails to disclose the step of “enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption,” as described in currently amended claim 1. Furthermore, as dependent claims 5, 15, 25 and 26, are dependent from claims 1, 11, and 21, which should be allowable for the reasons described above, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner’s rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant’s representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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